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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,817	01/30/2002	William B. Reulein	72226 (7423)	2467

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EXAMINER

TRAN, QUOC A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/058,817

Applicant(s)

REULEIN ET AL.

Examiner

Quoc A. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to application filed 01/30/2002.
2. Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1 and 19 are independent claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Landford-Wilson US Patent No. 6,589,292 B1 issued 07/08/2003 filed 03/29/1999 (hereinafter '292), in view of Khan et al US Patent No. 6,360,236 B1 issued 03/19/2002 filed 08/31/1998 (hereinafter '236).**

***In regard to independent claim 1, "creating a plurality of document components; creating a plurality of rules governing document assembly",*** as taught by '292 at col. 2, line 25 through col. 3, line 60 (i.e.... Newshole: We have used this term to describe a component of a page... newshole may itself be comprised of several elements: a story may contain headlines, pictures and text, which together make up the newshole for that story ... newshole takes place... enables the various elements of a newshole to be arranged (sized and positioned) and formatted (styles, using devices

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such as typography, color and borders) in a manner that: l. suits or matches the particular newshole design (presentation) rules of a publication... allowing the user to predefine relationships between the various components of the newshole... Define, for each of these layouts, rules governing the behavior of each element of layout, as to its size, position and typographic style and so on...).

'292 does not explicitly teach, *"providing document specific data and text, said provided data and text being further specific to individuals intended to receive customized copies of documents being published; and providing a document request, said document request initiating assembly of a document, said document being assembled responsive to said created rules and provided data and text"*, however, as taught by '236 at col. 2, line 40 through col. 3, line 15 (i.e..... allows simultaneously displaying the document being developed...provide a summary of content of differing message files and a varying step is implemented which varies the subportion of the viewable information by displaying one of the differing message files... ..The tool palette has one or more tool-defining regions. Each tool-defining region specifies a predetermined operation that modifies a subportion of the viewable information, defining an annotation...The document file and the message file may be any type of computer readable file...), also as taught by '236 at col. 9, lines 27-38 (i.e...data communication between the client terminals 12 and the ReviewIt.TM. server 10a while providing the full flexibility of the integrated system. To that end, the ReviewIt.TM. server 10a bifurcates the data transmitted to a client terminal 12, concerning a document under development, into single and multiple server call data. The single

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server call data is transmitted to the client terminals 12 as soon as a project is opened...).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified '236 into '292 to provide a way to include the feature, wherein document is specific data and text, that is further specific to individuals intended to receive customized copies of documents being published; and providing a document request, that including the request of initiating assembly of a document, wherein the document being assembled responsive to said created rules and provided data and text. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification to provide dynamic design collaboration the evolution of many documents, such as architectural specifications, books, legal papers and other lengthy manuscripts may involve multiple iterations or contributions from multiple developers or both over a data network, as taught by '236 at col. 1, lines 15-20 (i.e....dynamic design collaboration over a data network...).

**In regard to dependent claim 2, "document rules directing component selection and text selection, condition rules directing selection of logic conditions to be evaluated; and action rules directing document editing actions to be taken responsive to logical evaluation of selected document rules and condition rules",** as taught by '292 at col. 3, line 40 through col. 4, line 5 (i.e.... rules governing the behaviors of each element of layout, as to its size, position and typographic style and so on. This facility allows the publication to predefine relationships between the various components of the newshole... Determines which layouts are or are not suitable or correct for usage

in the current newshole, in accordance with the predefined rules and taking into account the specified desires of the database user...).

**In regard to dependent claim 3,** *"a plurality of said document rules are assembled into a logic function that is spread across multiple ones of said plurality condition rules"*, as taught by '292 at col. 3, lines 30-65 (i.e.... rules governing the behaviors of each element of layout ... Determines which layouts are or are not suitable or correct for usage in the current newshole, in accordance with the predefined rules and taking into account the specified desires of the database user...).

**In regard to dependent claim 4,** *"plurality of document rules include operators from condition rules directing collection of said multiple rules to form said logic functions"*, as taught by '292 at col. 19, lines 60-65 (i.e.... A function is provided whereby a particular Section/Layout Style/Family can be assigned (or "mapped") to a "hot-key", a key on a keyboard designated to carry out a particular computer command. This functions as a sort of computer "shorthand". It allows a certain style or type of layout to be assigned and then employed by a single command...).

**In regard to dependent claim 5,** *"wherein ones of said document rules select other subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text rules"*, as taught by '292 at col. 1, lines 20-25 (i.e.... `design` refers to the graphical rules or guidelines that govern how elements (such as headlines, pictures and text) should be used to construct newsholes...).

**In regard to dependent claim 6,** *"wherein ones of said document rules conditionally select said subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text*

*rules*", as taught by '292 at col. 1, lines 20-25 (i.e....`design` refers to the graphical rules or guidelines that govern how elements (such as headlines, pictures and text) should be used to construct newsholes...).

**In regard to dependent claim 7**, *"wherein said document rules further contain multiple business layers, each of said business layers providing a client specific organization, content and business rules"*, as taught by '292 at col. 4, lines 35-50 (i.e.... The NAILS system provides a separate "working area" for each publication published ....for each of those publications... Within each publication, the database is programmed preferably in a hierarchical structure ... various sections of the publication, such as News, Sport, Business and so on. (The publication defines these according to its needs...).

**In regard to dependent claim 8**, *"wherein unused said business layers are marked null"*, as taught by '236 at col. 10, lines 30-55 (i.e....referring to both FIGS. 11 and FIGS. 13...control passes from the client terminal 12 to the ReviewIt server ...to determine whether a null is present...).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified '236 into '292 to provide a way to include the feature, wherein document is specific data and text, that is further specific to individuals intended to receive customized copies of documents being published; and providing a document request, that including the request of initiating assembly of a document, wherein the document being assembled responsive to said created rules and wherein said document rules further contain multiple business layers, which could

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be mark null if the business layers is unused. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification to provide dynamic design collaboration the evolution of many documents, such as architectural specifications, books, legal papers and other lengthy manuscripts may involve multiple iterations or contributions from multiple developers or both over a data network, as taught by '236 at col. 1, lines 15-20 (i.e....dynamic design collaboration over a data network...).

**In regard to dependent claim 9**, *"wherein said business layers provide document component authorization security control, document reporting control and control for searching and indexing rules blocks"*, as taught by '236 at col. 5, lines 5-10 (i.e. ... To restrict access, a password data entry field is provided 68b in which any series of number or letters, up to 256 characters, may be entered. As is standard with most password security features, password data is never recited in the field 68b...), also as taught by '236 at col. 2, line 40 through col. 3, line 15 (i.e..... allows simultaneously displaying the document being developed...provide a summary of content of differing message files and a varying step is implemented which varies the subportion of the viewable information by displaying one of the differing message files...The tool palette has one or more tool-defining regions. Each tool-defining region specifies a predetermined operation that modifies a subportion of the viewable information, defining an annotation...).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified '236 into '292 to provide a way to include the feature, wherein said business layers provide document component authorization



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security control, document reporting control and control for searching and indexing rules blocks. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification to provide dynamic design collaboration the evolution of many documents, such as architectural specifications, books, legal papers and other lengthy manuscripts may involve multiple iterations or contributions from multiple developers or both over a data network, as taught by '236 at col. 1, lines 15-20 (i.e....dynamic design collaboration over a data network...).

**In regard to dependent claim 10, “wherein document component authorization security control designates user read and write access to document components”,** as taught by '236 at col. 5, lines 10-20 (i.e. ... If a user desires to register to use the present invention, virtual button 68d is activated and dialog box 71 is displayed so as to be in superimposition with dialog box 68, shown in FIG. 6. Dialog box 71 includes a plurality of data entry fields 71a-p. Also included thereon are virtual buttons 71q and 71r, which allows submission of the data, once data, has been entered in fields 71...).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified '236 into '292 to provide a way to include the feature, wherein document component authorization security control designates user read and write access to document components. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification to provide dynamic design collaboration the evolution of many documents, such as architectural specifications, books, legal papers and other lengthy manuscripts may involve multiple iterations or

contributions from multiple developers or both over a data network, as taught by '236 at col. 1, lines 15-20 (i.e....dynamic design collaboration over a data network...).

**In regard to dependent claim 11**, *"wherein a plurality of said document rules are always true, always true rules being unconditional rules"*, as taught by '292 at col. 3, lines 40-55(i.e.... automatically fitted (or filled up) consistent with those design rules ... Define, for each of these layouts, rules governing the behavior of each element of layout...). Examiner reads "consistent with those design rules, and rules governing the behavior", which could be interpreted as the claimed *"true rules being unconditional rules"*.

**In regard to dependent claim 12**, *"wherein each of said condition rules is linked to a document rule"*, as taught by '292 at col. 3, lines 50-60(i.e.... rules governing the behavior of each element of layout, as to its size, position and typographic style and so on. This facility allows the publication to predefine relationships between the various components of the newshole, which relationships determine each component's size and position relative to the others...).

**In regard to dependent claim 13**, *"wherein each of said condition rules contain pointers indicating any next condition and any subcondition"*, as taught by '292 at col. 9, lines 30-40 (i.e.... "target" layout size to be defined prior to requesting a selection of possible layouts ...).

**In regard to dependent claim 14**, *"wherein blocks of said condition rules are selected for a corresponding document rule, said blocks providing a logic function to be evaluated for said corresponding document rule"*, as taught by '292 at col. 10, lines 5-20

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(i.e.... A function is provided whereby a user may select, on the page, a layout which was already created using the present invention, and then "cycle through" alternative layouts. In this case, the alternative layouts are selected from with the Section/Style as the current layout. Each of the alternative layouts is chosen from the other Families within that Section/Style. This presents a convenient means of revising or changing a layout which has already been drawn...).

**In regard to dependent claim 15**, *"wherein each of said action rules corresponds to one of said document rules"*, as taught by '292 at col. 3, line 65 through col. 4, line 5 (i.e.... Determines which layouts are or are not suitable or correct for usage in the current newshole, in accordance with the predefined rules and taking into account the specified desires of the database user and/or C. Graphically displays for the user the correct or suitable layouts and allows selection of one of them...).

**In regard to dependent claim 16**, *"wherein each of said action rules contains a specific action on a component with respect to said document being created"*, as taught by '292 at col. 3, line 65 through col. 4, line 10 (i.e.... Determines which layouts are or are not suitable or correct for usage in the current newshole...automatically built the final layout...).

**In regard to dependent claim 17**, *"wherein the plurality of said action rules are grouped into groups, each group of action rules being identified for one of said document rules"*, as taught by '292 at col. 4, lines 10-15 (i.e.... the selected layout and its elements to suit the new size specified by the user, in accordance with the rules that have been defined for that layout and/or F. Automatically monitors any further edits that

the user may make to the layout after it is drawn, and measures these against the predefined design rules ....).

**In regard to dependent claim 18**, *"wherein document components are inserted, deleted or replaced as directed by a particular action rule"*, as taught by '292 at col. 4, lines 10-15 (i.e.... the selected layout and its elements to suit the new size specified by the user, in accordance with the rules that have been defined for that layout and/or F. Automatically monitors any further edits that the user may make to the layout after it is drawn, and measures these against the predefined design rules ....).

**In regard to independent claim 19**, is directed to a data structure for performing the method of claims 1-2, and is similarly rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claims 20-29 consecutively**, is directed to a data structure for performing the method of claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 9,10, 11, 13, 16 and 14 consecutively, and are similarly rejected along the same rationale.

### **Conclusion**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dabney et al USPAT- 6,643,663 B1 issued 11/04/2003 filed 10/08/1999

Rowe et al USPAT- 5,860,074 B1 issued 01/12/1999 filed 08/14/1997

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-

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8781, "**After Oct 20, 2004, the examiner can be reach at (571) 272- 4103**". The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 5:30PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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**Quoc A. Tran**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Technology Center 2176**  
**September 23, 2004**

  
**JOSEPH FEILD**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**